

DECISION MEMO
FOR
AMENDMENT #7
LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST LAND & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chavez, Eddy, Lincoln, and Otero counties, New Mexico

April 1991

The Regional Forester decided on October 31, 1986, to implement the Lincoln National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan (the Plan), and it became effective on November 30, 1986. The regulations governing preparation of the Plan recognized the need to change and update it as time goes by, and gave Forest Supervisors the authority to approve nonsignificant changes.

I have decided to amend the Plan by updating the Forest's list of recreation and trails projects. This update will allow the Forest to better implement the goals, objectives and standards and guidelines for managing recreation. It also allows the Forest Service to take advantage of volunteer opportunities, develop public partnerships, and make use of matching fund opportunities. An updated recreation and trail project list is essential to keeping the Plan a useful management tool and to keeping the Forest in step with the needs and desires of our national, regional, and local publics.

Replacement pages containing the changes are attached. Enclosed are revised Table 3 and Table 4, which replace existing Tables 3-5. They should be inserted into existing copies of the Plan at page 15.

A draft copy of the proposed recreation and trails projects was mailed to 230 individuals, agencies and organizations. Ten responses were received. Of the ten responses, four concerned motorized/non-motorized trail use or expressed the need for more trails. Two addressed the maintenance of new facilities and the need for more tent camping sites. Others stressed their concern for maintaining wilderness character of the Guadalupe Wilderness Study Area and the need for protection of cave resources. New Mexico State Department of Game and Fish expressed concern about threatened and endangered plants and animals.

In response to their concerns, each commenter was contacted by Forest personnel. Issues discussed through personal contacts were site-specific in nature and are more appropriately addressed and evaluated during site-specific analysis for each project. Plan objectives are realized through consideration of the effects of activities on all resources. Before any activity is implemented, additional public involvement, development of project alternatives, comparisons of site-specific effects of those alternatives, and public disclosure of this information will be done as outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act.

This action fits the criteria for routine administrative and maintenance actions that may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment established by the Chief of the Forest Service in Interim Directive Number 3 to Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, 26.1b, dated January 12, 1990. Therefore, I have decided to categorically exclude this decision from documentation in an environmental assessment (EA).

This decision is subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 217. A Notice of Appeal must be in writing and clearly state that it is a Notice of Appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Appeals must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9, "Content of Notice of Appeal" and must be filed with Regional Forester, 517 Gold Avenue SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102-0084, and simultaneously sent to the Forest Supervisor, Federal Building, 11th and New York, Alamogordo, New Mexico, 88310 within 45 days from the date of publication of the legal notice of decision in the Alamogordo Daily News. This project will not be implemented sooner than seven calendar days following publication of the legal notice of decision. I anticipate that public notice will be published on or about May 6, 1991.

For further information, contact Forest Supervisor, Federal Building, 11th and New York, Alamogordo, New Mexico, 88310, (505) 437-6030.



for LEE POAGUE
Forest Supervisor

Date 4/30/91